(b) what are the month-wise figures in respect of inflation rate and what were the factors responsible therefor; and

(c) what measures are being taken to curb the rise in inflation rate and what is the outcome thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH). (a) The annual inflation rate on a point to point basis was 7 6 per cent for the week ending December 2, 1989 and 9.7 per cent for the week ending November 3, 1990.

(b) Inflation rates for different months (based on monthly average of WPI) are given as under

Months	Annual Inflation Rate
November 1989	7 6
December 1989	7 6
January 1990	7 8
February 1990	8 3
March 1990	8 6
April 1990	9 1
May 1990	8 7
June 1990	9 5
July 1990	9 6
August	8 1
September 1990	7 5
October 1990	8 6
November 1990	10 0

The factors responsible for the price rise are fiscal imbalances resulting in high increase in money supply and thus effective demand, supply and demand imbalances in sensitive commodities due to shortfall in production and supply, the Gulf crisis necessitating imposition of gulf surcharge on domestic prices of petroleum products and disruption in transport and supply of goods due to disturbed law and order situation in recent months

(c) Government has taken measures both on demand and supply side to keep prices under control. On the demand side, the emphasis is on curbing the growth of liquidity through curbs on government expenditure, reduction in budget deficit and growth of money supply. On the supply side, measures are being taken to improve the availability of essential commodities through larger allocations for the Public Distribution System and action against hoarders and blackmarketeers has also been intensified.

Reshuffling of economic departments

19 SHRI SUKOMAL SEN:
SHRI P. K KUNJACHEN:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to reshuffle economic departments like Imports-Exports and Customs and Central Excise very soon; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SHANTILAL PURUSHOTTAMDAS PATEL) (a) No such proposal is under consideration of the Government.

(b) Does not arise.

Change in the policy of restricted imports

20 SHRI SUKOMAL SEN:
SHRI DIPEN GHOSH:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently changed their policy of restricted imports and thereby saving scarce foreign exchange, and

(b) if so, what are the reasons for such a change?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SHANTILAL PURUSHOTTAMDAS PATEL): (a) and (b) One of the objectives of the Imports & Exports Policy is to discourage low priority imports and to